

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1 – 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended) A rotary sprinkler comprising

a rotor with an axle having a tip[[, and]];

a thrust bearing [[with]] comprising a socket having a bottom for receiving for rotation the axle[[,]];

~~said socket being adapted to receive for rotation said axle so that said tip abuts said bottom~~ the socket having a bottom that, during operation of the rotary sprinkler, abuts the tip of the axle in a contact zone[[,]]; and

~~wherein said sprinkler further comprises a hard element constituting at least a part of [[said]] the bottom including [[said]] the contact zone, [[said]] the hard element being made of comprising a harder material than [[said]] the tip, wherein [[said]] the hard element has a concave surface in the contact zone.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the tip is made of comprises plastic.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 23, wherein [[said]] the rotor with the axle and the tip is one integrally molded plastic part.

Claim 25 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element [[has]] comprises a polished surface in the contact zone.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises industrial sapphire stone.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises industrial ruby stone.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of ceramics~~ comprises a ceramic.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises glass.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises stainless steel.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element is formed as a plate or as a ball.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 32, wherein [[said]] the hard element is a stainless steel ball locked in the bottom of [[said]] the socket.

Claim 34 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 33, wherein [[said]] the tip is concave.

Claim 35 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22,
wherein [[said]] the socket has an inlet opening of diameter D0 and a peripheral wall
between [[said]] the inlet opening and [[said]] the bottom,

[[said]] ~~the socket being adapted to receive~~ configured for slidably [[said]] receiving the
axle through [[said]] the inlet opening,

wherein [[said]] the tip has a diameter D1 close to less than or equal to D0 while and
an adjacent portion of [[said]] the axle has diameter $D2 < D1$, ~~such that, when said tip abuts~~
~~said bottom, an open annular gap is formed between axle and peripheral wall and when tip is~~
~~aligned with inlet opening, inlet opening is essentially closed,~~ wherein when the tip and the
inlet opening are in a coplanar relationship, the tip is in annular contact with the inlet opening.

Claim 36 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 35, wherein [[said]] the
rotor is ~~adapted to slide, under~~ configured for sliding in response to water flow action, into a
position wherein [[said]] the tip abuts [[said]] the bottom, and the rotor is configured for sliding
~~is adapted to slide~~ back, in absence of water flow, into a position wherein [[said]] the tip is
aligned with [[said]] the inlet opening.

Claim 37 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 36, wherein [[said]] the
sprinkler is ~~adapted to operate~~ configured for operating with [[said]] the socket disposed
above [[said]] the rotor.

Claim 38 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 35, wherein [[said]] the
tip is ~~formed as one of the following:~~ selected from the group consisting of

- a ball,
- a cylinder,
- a cone,
- a disc, [[or]] and
- another body of rotation.

Claim 39 (currently amended) A hard element for use in a rotary sprinkler comprising
a rotor [[with]] comprising an axle having a tip, and a thrust bearing [[with]] comprising
a socket for receiving for rotation the axle, the socket having a bottom that abuts the tip of the

~~axle during operation of the rotary sprinkler said socket receiving said axle for rotation so that tip abuts bottom,~~

~~[[said]] the hard element comprising: being formed for fixing in said bottom, being made of~~

~~a harder material than [[said]] the tip, and the hard element having a concave contact surface to meet said for engaging the tip, wherein said contact surface is concave the hard element is fixed in the bottom of the socket.~~

Claim 40 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, wherein [[said]] the contact surface is polished.

Claim 41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, formed as a plate.

Claim 43 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising industrial sapphire stone.

Claim 44 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising industrial ruby stone.

Claim 45 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising a ceramic ceramics.

Claim 46 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising glass.

Claim 47 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising stainless steel.